



**2004**

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIs)**

**EL RITO LOBATO WEST ALLOTMENT # 00200**

**Table - Permittees**

El Rito Lobato Cattle Association  
Celerino Archuleta  
Pete C. Archuleta  
Tony A. Archuleta  
Michael J. Garcia  
Tony M. Herrera  
Cornelio R. Lopez  
Johnathon C. Martinez  
Ernest R. Suazo  
Triple A Farms, c/o Robert Archuleta  
Larry Varoz  
Zenitram Industries, Inc.

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

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*Permittee or Association President*

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*Date*

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*District Ranger, El Rito*

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*Date*



## Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs)

### INTRODUCTION

This AOI is in reference to the discussion you had with Ezequiel Rael and Diana Trujillo on March 01, 2004. The authorized eartag color is "blue". The authorized use for the 2003 Grazing Season on the El Rito Lobato West Allotment is as follows:

**Table 1 – Permittee List and Season of Use**

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Eartag #	Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season		
El Rito Lobato Cattle Association	26 bulls	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	17 bulls	5/01 – 9/30	<b>B 1 – 26</b>	35 % Voluntary Non-use for Resource Protection
Celerino A. Archuleta	38 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		<b>A 1 - 38</b>	Voluntary Total Non-use for Resource Protection
Pete C. Archuleta	5 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	5 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>P 1 – 5</b>	
Tony A. Archuleta	11 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	11 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>C 1 – 11</b>	
Michael J. Garcia	62 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		<b>G 1 – 62</b>	
Tony M. Herrera	34 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		<b>H 1 – 34</b>	
Cornelio R. Lopez	15 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		<b>J 1 – 15</b>	Voluntary Total Non-use for Resource Protection
Johnathon C. Martinez	65 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	45 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>V 1 – 65</b>	31 % Voluntary Non-use for Resource Protection
Ernest R. Suazo	9 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	9 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>S 1 – 9</b>	
Triple A Farms, c/o Robert Archuleta	24 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	24 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>E 1 – 18</b>	
Larry Varoz	5 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	<i>Total Non-use</i>		<b>X 1 – 5</b>	Voluntary Total Non-use for Resource Protection
Zenitram Industries, Inc.	131 c/c	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	120 c/c	5/01 – 9/30	<b>Z 1 –131</b>	8 % Voluntary Non-use for Resource Protection
<b>TOTAL</b>	425 Head	5/1 – 9/30 11/1 – 12/31	214 c/c 17 bulls	5/01 – 9/30		<b>46% Total Reductions</b>

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the El Rito Lobato West Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five day grace period will be allowed for removal of stray(s) permitted cattle from the allotment.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (*Total Nonuse*), or part of the permitted numbers (*Partial Nonuse*). Verbal applications will not be accepted. Any Non-use may be recorded as Resource Protection for the 2004



grazing season.

If a permittee elects to request “total nonuse” he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned fences and range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be completed within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

### **ROTATION SCHEDULE**

Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness):

**Table 2 – Rotation Schedule**

**SUMMER USE:**

Perro Pasture	231 Head of Cattle	5/01 – 5/15
Sage Pasture	231 Head of Cattle	5/16 – 5/31
Comanche Pasture	231 Head of Cattle	6/01 – 6/20
Madera Pasture	231 Head of Cattle	6/21 -
Amarilla	231 Head of Cattle	
Sierra	231 Head of Cattle	
Manzanares Pasture	Pasture rested for Resource Protection	

**WINTER USE:**

Sage Pasture	TBD
Perro Pasture	TBD
Manzanares Pasture	TBD

### **FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS**

Forage Utilization will be measured in key areas shown on the attached map. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the El Rito Lobato West Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using a combination of monitoring techniques including, but not limited to, paired cages, photo points, Rapid Assessment Method, and permittee monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service Range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

The following are El Rito Lobato West Allotment’s key forage species:

<b>Pasture Name</b>	<b>Key Forage Species</b>	<b>Stubble Height</b>
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Sage/Perro/Manzanares Pastures	Western Wheat	4 – 5”
	Blue Gramma	2 – 2.5”
	Black Gramma	4 – 5”
	Crested Wheatgrass	4 – 5.5”
Comanche/Madera Pastures	Arizona Fescue	6 – 7”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 5”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 5”
Amarilla/Sierra	AZ /Thurber Fescue	6 – 7”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 5”
	Mt. Muhly	4 – 5”
	Oat Grasses	8 – 10”
Riparian Areas	Red Top	4 – 6”
	Kentucky Blue	4 – 6”
	Sedges	4 – 6”

## MONITORING

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. Once allowable use is achieved, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture. Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged. **Given the extreme drought conditions with low forage production and water availability, it is highly probable that the allowable use standards will be reached before the scheduled end date for the allotment. Forage conditions will be monitored as the grazing season progresses.**

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns.

This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

Regular herding and riding practices are the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.



## IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

The following projects were completed on the El Rito Lobato West Allotment during the 2003 grazing season:

- Construction of Madera Livestock Pipe Corral.
- Brush hogging of 25 acres in Sage Pasture.
- Reconstruction of fence by Ernesto Suazo.
- Cottonwood Spring Development (Need to look at berm reconstruction)
- Comanche and Sierra Spring Development (Pending)
- Look into reconstructing existing stock tanks within the allotment

Several projects are planned for the El Rito Lobato West Allotment in 2004. These projects are as follows:

- Comanche and Sierra Spring Development (Pending)
- Look into reconstructing existing stock tanks within the allotment
- 319 Grant proposal

It is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” to a good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next scheduled pasture(s).

In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining their fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

## ALLOTMENT STATUS

At the present time direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs. According to the new Forest Plan implementation schedule, an Allotment Management Plan update, developed using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, has been rescheduled for the year 2005.



Open and positive communication is encouraged. Feel free to contact the range personnel if you have any questions or problems. They will be happy to discuss allotment management, on the ground status, Forest Plan standards and guidelines, and possible changes in allotment management.

## OTHER

Reminder, the permittee(s) must be in "*good standing*" with the respective association. This includes but is not limited to salt fees, bull fees, range improvement fees, and rider fees. Annual validations and Waiver of Term Grazing Permit(s) will be approved and processed only if permittee is in good standing.

### APPEAL STATEMENT

This AOI is hereby made a part of your Term Grazing Permit

This decision is subject to administrative review, pursuant to 36 CFR 251; and any appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 251.90. In accordance with 36 CFR 251.84, if you file an appeal, I am willing to meet with you to discuss any concerns you may have with my decision. If you file an appeal, you may request an oral presentation in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.97). Additionally, if you file an appeal, you may request a stay of my decision in the appeal or at any time prior to closing of the appeal record (36 CFR 251.91).

A notice of appeal must be filed with Martin Chavez, Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, 208 Cruz Alta, Taos, New Mexico 87571, within 45 days of the date of this decision. A copy of the notice of appeal must be filed simultaneously with Diana Trujillo, District Forest Ranger, who was the deciding officer and the address for mailing the appeal copy is P. O. Box 56, El Rito, New Mexico 87530.

I will appreciate if you contact me and together we can try to resolve disagreements before you file any Notice of Appeal. I value your experience and knowledge of the allotment. If we cannot reach an agreement, you may exercise your appeal rights. This will insure that we both understand the reasons for each others position regarding any issues. I look forward to working with you this season. I am confident that together we will work effectively to manage the range resources in a manner that reflects good stewardship for the land and cattle alike.



**ATTACHMENT 1**

ACTUAL USE INFORMATION  
EI RITO LOBATO WEST ALLOTMENT  
2003 GRAZING SEASON

Pasture	Planned Livestock Number & Class	Planned Use		Actual Use		Remarks
		Date on	Date Off	Date on	Date Off	
<b>SUMMER USE:</b>						
Sage	TBD					
Perro	TBD					
Comanche	90 c/c	5/20	6/2			
Madera	90 c/c	5/20	6/2			
Amarilla	90 c/c	6/3	9/30			
Sierra	90 c/c	6/3	9/30			
Manzanares						
<b>WINTER USE:</b>						
Sage						
Perro						
Manzanares						

1. Number of Head counted on \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Number of head lost: \_\_\_\_\_.

Livestock Class	Poisonous Plants	Predators	Other	Total Losses

Additional Comments:



**ATTACHMENT 2**

UTILIZATION INFORMATION  
EL RITO LOBATO WEST ALLOTMENT  
2003 GRAZING SEASON

Pasture	Head Months (HMs)	Animal Unit Months	Allowable Utilization (percent)	Date Monitored	Observed Utilization
<b>Summer Use:</b>					
<b>Winter Use:</b>					

